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Docket No: 02309/000H713-US0

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/675,890 Art Unit: 1771
Applicant : Naohito TAKEUCHI et al.
Filed : September 29, 2000 Examiner: Terrel H. Morris
Title : WATER-DECOMPOSABLE FIBROUS SHEET CONTAINING
GEL COMPOUND

LETTER

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the March 15, 2004 telephone conversation between Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) Terrel Morris and Michael Sullivan (agent for Applicants), during which SPE Morris confirmed receipt by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) submitted on December 3, 2003 in the above-referenced application and acknowledged that the references cited therein had been

considered prior to allowance of this application.

Furthermore, while Applicants believe that the certification made in the December 3, 2003 IDS is fully compliant with Rule 1.97(e (1), Applicants hereby re-certify as follows:

Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement submitted by Applicants on December 3, 2003 was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

In view of the December 3, 2003 certification and the above re-certification, Applicants respectfully request that the record reflect the Examiner's prior consideration of the references cited on the December 3, 2003 IDS by initialing the list of references (Form PTO/SB/08) submitted therewith, a copy of which is enclosed with this letter.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 18, 2004

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Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known	
Application Number		09/075,890			
Filing Date		September 29, 2000			
First Named Inventor		Naruhito Takeuchi			
Art Unit		1771			
Examiner Name		John J. Guarriello			
Attorney Docket Number		02309/000H713-USO			
Sheet	1	of	1		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
	1.	EP 0 758 695	02-19-1997	Japan Tobacco Inc; Nishima Paper Co. Ltd.		
	2.	EP 0 372 388	06-13-1990	KAO Corp.		
	3.	EP 0 926 299	06-30-1999	Uni Charm Corp.		
	4.	EP 0 802 282	10-22-1997	Uni Charm Corp.		

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 601.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²

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¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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